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50X1-HUM

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1. During March and April 1954 no patrol boats of the Polish Sea Frontier Guards were allowed to go out on sea duty. Instead, an unusually large number of Soviet patrol boats patrolled the approaches to the 12 km territorial waters the length of the Polish coast. They were very vigilant, and put any craft which approached territorial waters under observation.
2. I at first believed that the Soviet Southern Baltic Fleet (main base in Baltiysk) was having exercises or maneuvers in the Southern Baltic, but observation did not bear this out. Later information was received that the Polish Security Police had rechecked the personal files of Polish patrol boat crews, of their naval personnel and also of the crews of the fishing vessels. This led to rumors that the Soviets had discovered a plot among the Polish sailors, both of the navy and of the fishing fleet, to escape abroad. These rumors were connected with two incidents on the Polish-East German frontier in April, when Polish and East German Frontier Guards had stopped two Polish soldiers and officers who were trying to cross into East Germany. Shots were exchanged; there were some killed and wounded. According to latest information from Poland, these increased security measures are due to the fact that the Soviet authorities are, at present, much more concerned about the morale of the Polish armed forces and of the Polish population than hitherto. The Russians are nervous - as though they were expecting complications, or as if they had received instructions to be particularly on the alert.
3. All this may account for the crew of the second Polish destroyer, Burma, not being complete yet. Burma has been reconditioned in the Gdynia naval shipyard after a long period of work. She is said to have been ready for trial runs since December 1953. Her first trip was to have been to Leningrad, there to complete her armament, but she has not yet gone.

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